Message Text

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42.

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-10 IO-10 /088 W

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R 041114Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 945

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 191

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: CONVENTION QUICKENS

REF: (A) BELFAST 183 (B) BELFAST 182

- 1. NORTHERN IRELAND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION MEETING NORMALLY JUNE 3 AND 4 BUT WILL NOT RPT NOT SIT ON JUNE 5 BECAUSE OF REFERENDUM ON EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. IN SITTING JUNE 3 CHAIRMAN RULED OUT OF ORDER A MOTION TABLED BY UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) CALLING FOR ASSURANCES THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER. CONVENTION APPROVED SEVERAL DRAFT RULES AND BEGAN DEBATE ON CONTROVERSIAL DRAFT RULE ESTABLISHING BUSINESS COMMITTEE (REFTEL B). IT POSSIBLE CONVENTION COULD CONCLUDE DEBATE ON RULES AND BEGIN DISCUSSING SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WEEK BEGINNING JUNE 8.
- 2. LAW AND ORDER MOTION INTRODUCED IN REACTION TO STATEMENT BY REVEREND WILLIAM ARLOW THAT BRITISH HAD GIVEN COMMITMENT TO PROVISIONAL IRA TO WITHDRAW TROOPS. MOTION SUPPORTED BY ALL MEMBERS CONVENTION EXCEPT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP). CHAIRMAN RULED THAT WORDING UNCLASSIFIED

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MOTION MADE IT OUTSIDE CONVENTION BUSINESS BUT SUGGESTED IF

IT REWORDED TO REFLECT CONCERNS THAT CONDUCT CONVENTION BUSINESS AFFECTED THEN IT COULD BE SUBJECT DEBATE.

3. DEBATE CONTINUED BE GENERALLY AMICABLE. LONDONDERRY MEMBER GLENN BARR HAS BEEN GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT AT LEAST TWO LOYALIST PRISONERS WILL BE TRANSFERRED FROM BRITISH JAILS TO NORTHERN IRELAND AND HE TOOK SEAT. THERE WAS EXCHANGE BTWEEN BARR AND SDLP MEMBER AUSTIN CURRIE RELATING TO BARR CONNECTIONS WITH PARAMILITARIES (REFTEL A) THAT ENDED BY HASTY EARLY ADJOURNMENT. SPICER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: CONSTITUTION, PARAMILITARY FORCES, CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, RULES COMMITTEE, AMENDMENTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 04 JUN 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Decument Number: 1075PET

Document Number: 1975BELFAS00191 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750195-0181 From: BELFAST

Image Path:

Handling Restrictions: n/a

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750679/aaaacucm.tel Line Count: 72

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EUR Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BELFAST 183, 75 BELFAST 182
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 28 MAR 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by greeneet>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: CONVENTION QUICKENS TAGS: PINT, UK, UVF To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006